

they were beginning to show their mettle, run them for a year or two, then toss them aside in order to make room for other promising *debutants*. From special circumstances a few men remained with him till the last, but the number of those whose connection with Villemessant's journals proved as brief as brilliant, was extraordinary. It may be said of him that if he did not originate he at least accentuated the personal note in French newspaper writing; and, in conjunction with his *collaborates*, Adrien Marx, he was certainly the very first to introduce the "interview" into European journalism.<sup>1</sup> Later he became the sponsor of Henri Bochefort, who did so much to demolish the Second Empire.

It was into the hands of Villemessant that Zola fell on quitting Hachette's. He, Zola, had already had some dealings with another singular and prominent newspaper promoter, Millaud, the first to produce a popular halfpenny daily in Paris, "Le Petit Journal," in whose columns Le\*o Lespes, a Parisian hairdresser, achieved journalistic celebrity as "Timothe'e Trimm." There was as much of a Barnum in Millaud as there was in Villemessant, but while the former was a thorough Hebrew Jew, the latter was a Christian one, who, whenever it suited his purpose, could be a liberal pay-master. And, besides, his manners were

pleasant, even  
jovial; his greatest vice being an extreme  
partiality for the  
pleasures of the table, in which respect his  
contemporaries  
contrasted him with Dr. Ve"ron, another famous  
newspaper  
man of those times, saying, "Ve'ron is a *gourmet*,  
and Ville-  
messant a glutton."

<sup>1</sup> This was in the early sixties. Marx, who "interviewed"  
the boyish  
Prince Imperial, Baron James de Eothschild, M. de Leaseps,  
and many others,  
collected his articles in a volume entitled, " Indiscretions  
Parisiennes."